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(54) **LED LAMP, LED ILLUMINATION DEVICE, AND LED MODULE**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
    None
    See application file for complete search history.

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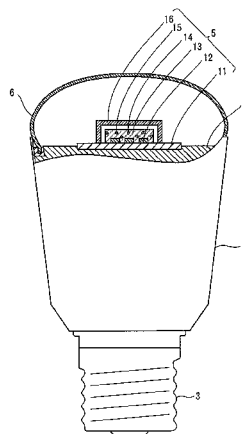   (Continued)

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(57)   **ABSTRACT**

An LED lamp provides a strong red color with a natural appearance. The LED lamp is provided with an LED module and a filter. The LED module includes a blue LED with a main emission peak in the 440 nm to 460 nm wavelength band, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor. The filter reduces the spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of the 570 nm to 590 nm wavelength band among light emitted by the LED module.

24 Claims, 29 Drawing Sheets

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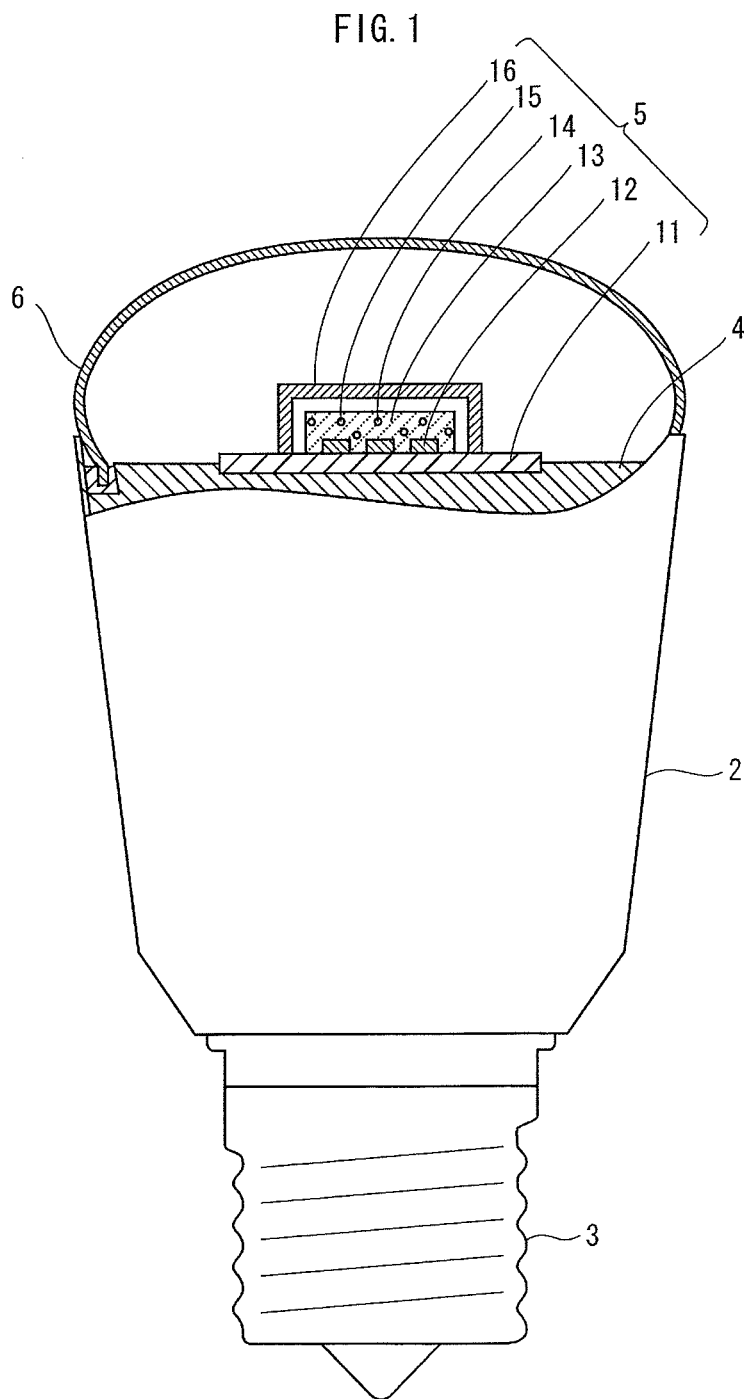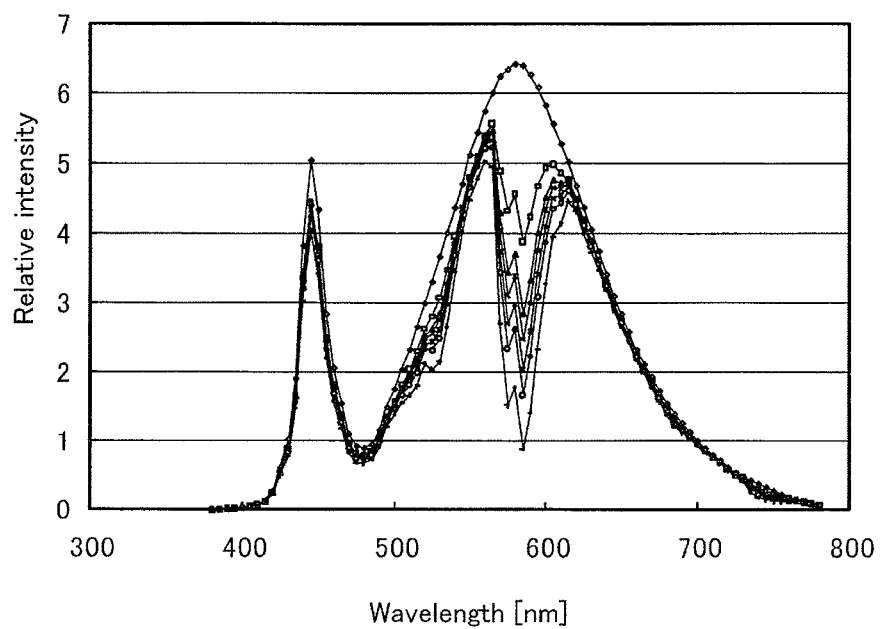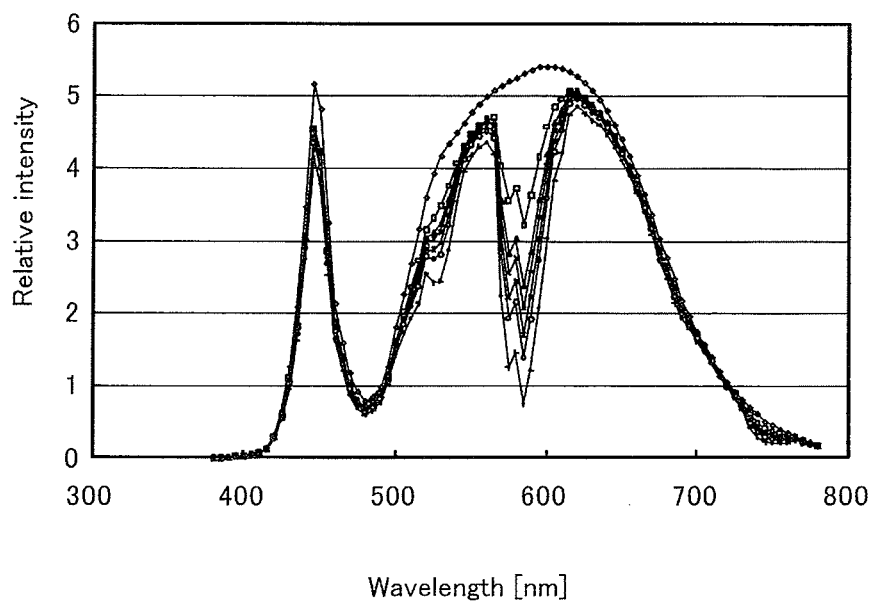
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FIG. 1

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FIG. 2A

FIG. 2B

FIG. 3A

	No filter	0.27mm air	0.43mm air	0.5mm air	0.6mm air	0.7mm air	1mm air
Tc	3571	3623	3709	3754	3776	3805	3879
duv	4.746	4.3	3.7	3.5	3.2	2.9	1.9
Ra	69	75	78	79	81	82	84
Ga	87	92	96	97	99	101	105
M	93	101	107	109	112	114	121
R9	−37	1	25	35	47	59	91
R15	57	70	79	82	86	91	97
Ga4	85	91	95	96	98	100	105
Flux ratio [%]	100	84	78	76	73	70	62

FIG. 3B

	No filter	0.27mm air	0.43mm air	0.5mm air	0.6mm air	0.7mm air	1mm air
Tc	3508	3514	3572	3603	3605	3614	3635
duv	0.8	−0.3	−1.3	−1.8	−2.3	−2.9	−4.5
Ra	82	87	88	88	87	85	81
Ga	98	104	108	109	111	113	118
M	112	121	127	129	132	134	142
R9	37	74	97	93	81	70	40
R15	80	93	97	94	90	85	74
Ga4	98	103	107	108	110	112	116
Flux ratio [%]	100	85	80	78	75	72	65

FIG. 4

Color classification: light bulb color (L)

FIG. 5

YAG / Red

Color classification point	535 R645				540 R645				550 R645				555 R645				560 R645			
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	635	635	625	630	630	630	615	620	610	615	590	600	625	625	605	610	610	615	590	600
Full width at half maximum	115	110	175	180	150	130	165	165	155	160	140	150	145	140	145	155	140	135	115	125
Tc	2596	2595	3224	3149	2620	2618	3271	3172	2620	2618	3271	3172	2574	2648	3252	3149	2617	2601	3250	3151
duv	8	-2	8	-2	8	-1	9	-1	8	-1	9	-1	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2
Ra	91	91	97	95	94	97	89	93	91	94	84	89	89	91	81	86	78	81	69	74
Ga	87	103	96	104	91	103	95	102	90	102	93	99	91	101	92	98	88	96	85	91
M	120	129	117	125	118	127	112	121	116	124	109	117	115	122	107	115	106	114	94	104
R9	98	90	80	96	73	83	46	68	59	70	28	51	51	60	16	40	11	26	-38	-7
R15	96	93	93	96	90	97	82	92	86	93	77	87	84	89	73	83	70	78	57	68
Ga4	100	106	102	107	101	106	99	104	100	104	97	101	100	103	95	100	96	99	87	93

YAG / Red

Color classification point	535 R620				540 R620				550 R620				555 R620				560 R620			
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	615	615	600	605	610	610	590	595	605	605	585	595	605	605	580	590	595	595	575	580
Full width at half maximum	125	120	155	155	130	125	140	140	130	130	130	135	130	125	130	130	130	125	105	115
Tc	2613	2599	3247	3148	2634	2619	3269	3170	2634	2622	3272	3172	2598	2606	3253	3150	2602	2559	3252	3154
duv	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2	9	-1	8	-2	9	-1	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2
Ra	86	87	84	87	78	80	75	78	75	77	71	74	72	74	68	72	65	66	59	63
Ga	87	97	91	97	90	97	90	95	89	96	88	93	89	95	87	92	88	91	82	87
M	107	114	105	111	106	113	101	108	104	111	99	105	103	109	97	104	99	104	89	96
R9	24	32	18	32	4	13	-10	6	-4	5	-21	-4	-11	-1	-30	-11	-27	-21	-61	-39
R15	75	81	74	81	68	74	64	72	65	71	60	68	63	68	58	66	57	62	47	57
Ga4	92	97	93	97	92	96	91	95	92	95	89	93	91	94	88	92	90	91	83	87

FIG. 6

Green									
Red									
		G525				G525			
		R645				R620			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	645	645	645	645		620	615	615
Full width at half maximum	90	90	130	105		120	170	165
Tc	2601	2600	3247	3150		2601	3252	3147
duv	8	-2	8	-2		-2	8	-2
Ra	72	73	77	74		92	93	92
Ga	86	108	104	113		96	94	101
M	136	146	138	145		118	117	123
R9	23	17	14	4		55	80	87
R15	71	67	71	65		89	95	97
Ga4	113	118	116	120		102	103	105

FIG. 7

Color classification: warm white (WW)

Full width at half maximum [nm] (y-axis)

Peak wavelength [nm] (x-axis)

FIG. 8

YAG / Red: R645

Color classification point	535 A	535 B	535 C	535 D	540 A	540 B	540 C	540 D	550 A	550 B	550 C	550 D	555 A	555 B	555 C	555 D	560 A	560 B	560 C	560 D
Peak wavelength	625	630	620	625	615	620	600	610	610	615	590	600	605	610	585	595	590	595	580	585
Full width at half maximum	180	180	175	185	165	170	155	165	155	160	140	150	150	150	130	140	115	120	105	105
Tc	3259	3246	3755	3801	3275	3269	3825	3820	3275	3269	3825	3820	3253	3251	3801	3804	3253	3251	3804	3797
duv	8	-2	8	-2	9	-1	9	-1	9	-1	9	-1	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2
Ra	97	96	93	97	89	92	84	88	84	88	79	83	80	84	75	80	69	73	63	68
Ga	97	104	97	103	95	101	93	99	93	99	90	96	91	98	88	94	85	91	80	86
M	118	124	112	118	112	119	105	112	108	116	100	107	106	113	97	105	94	102	83	91
R9	89	98	64	91	46	65	21	46	28	48	-1	26	14	35	-17	12	-38	-13	-80	-46
R15	96	97	88	99	82	91	75	86	76	86	69	80	72	82	64	76	57	67	47	59
Ga4	102	107	100	105	99	103	96	100	97	101	92	97	95	99	90	95	87	92	80	86

YAG / Red: R620

Color classification point	535 A	535 B	535 C	535 D	540 A	540 B	540 C	540 D	550 A	550 B	550 C	550 D	555 A	555 B	555 C	555 D	560 A	560 B	560 C	560 D
Peak wavelength	600	605	585	595	590	595	580	585	585	590	575	580	580	585	575	580	575	580		
Full width at half maximum	155	155	155	160	140	140	130	135	130	135	120	130	130	130	110	120	105	110		
Tc	3247	3253	3779	3800	3272	3276	3800	3819	3272	3276	3800	3819	3254	3246	3797	3799	3254	3252		
duv	8	-2	8	-2	9	-1	9	-1	9	-1	9	-1	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2		
Ra	84	86	81	84	75	78	72	75	71	74	68	71	68	71	65	69	59	62		
Ga	91	97	91	96	90	95	88	92	88	93	85	90	87	91	84	89	82	86		
M	105	110	101	106	101	107	96	101	99	104	93	98	97	103	90	96	89	95		
R9	18	32	9	26	-10	5	-25	-6	-21	-5	-38	-18	-30	-14	-49	-26	-61	-43		
R15	74	81	71	79	64	72	60	69	60	68	56	64	58	65	53	62	48	56		
Ga4	93	97	92	96	91	94	89	92	89	93	86	90	88	91	84	89	83	86		

FIG. 9

Green									
Red	G525				G525				
	R645				R620				
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	645	645	645	645	615	615	615	615
Full width at half maximum	130	120	155	145	170	160	175	170
Tc	3250	3253	3798	3798	3254	3250	3801	3801
duv	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2	8	-2
Ra	77	75	80	77	93	93	95	94
Ga	103	113	107	115	95	102	97	104
M	137	144	135	141	117	122	116	121
R9	14	3	13	-1	80	85	83	95
R15	71	65	73	65	95	98	95	95
Ga4	116	120	117	121	103	105	103	107

FIG. 10

FIG. 11

YAG

Red: R645

	535				540				550				555				560			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	610	615	605	610	600	605	585	595	590	600	575	585	585	595	575	580		580		
Full width at half maximum	180	185	175	180	155	160	140	150	140	150	125	135	130	135	115	125		105		
Tc	3804	3902	4399	4373	3822	3918	4409	4411	3804	3904	4395	4394	3802	3903	4400	4399		3901		
duv	10	−2	10	−2	10	−1	11	−1	10	−2	11	−1	10	−2	10	−2		−2		
Ra	93	97	89	95	83	87	78	84	78	83	73	80	74	79	69	76		67		
Ga	94	103	93	101	92	98	88	96	89	96	85	93	87	93	82	90		85		
M	109	117	104	111	104	111	95	105	99	107	90	100	96	103	85	96		89		
R9	57	88	42	72	17	43	−13	28	−3	24	−38	6	−22	8	−60	−13		−52		
R15	86	99	81	94	74	85	66	81	68	79	59	75	63	74	53	69		58		
Ga4	99	105	97	103	95	100	90	97	92	97	86	94	89	94	82	91		85		

YAG

Red: R620

	535				540				550				555				560			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	585	590	575	580	580	580	575	580	570	580	570	575	575	575	570	570				
Full width at half maximum	155	160	150	160	130	135	115	125	120	125	105	115	110	115	100	105				
Tc	3803	3901	4404	4401	3822	3918	4414	4410	3813	3898	4401	4424	3799	3896	4406	4429				
duv	10	−2	10	−2	11	−1	11	−1	10	−2	11	−2	10	−2	10	−2				
Ra	81	84	78	83	71	75	68	73	67	72	64	70	64	68	60	66				
Ga	89	95	88	94	86	92	83	90	85	90	81	87	83	88	79	85				
M	99	105	94	101	94	100	87	95	92	98	84	92	89	95	81	89				
R9	5	26	−8	21	−30	−7	−49	−16	−41	−18	−63	−29	−54	−29	−78	−42				
R15	69	79	66	78	58	68	54	66	55	65	49	63	51	62	45	59				
Ga4	91	96	89	95	87	92	84	90	85	90	81	88	83	88	79	85				

FIG. 12

| Green | G525 | | | | G525 | | | |
| Red | R645 | | | | R620 | | | |
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	645	645	645	645	620	615	525	615
Full width at half maximum	155	145	175	160	175	170	170	175
Tc	3806	3899	4402	4402	3803	3901	4394	4398
duv	10	-2	10	-2	10	-2	10	-2
Ra	81	77	84	79	95	94	96	95
Ga	106	115	107	115	98	104	99	105
M	134	141	130	137	117	120	114	118
R9	16	-2	21	-3	88	95	88	97
R15	75	65	78	67	96	95	96	94
Ga4	116	122	117	122	104	107	104	108

FIG. 13

Color classification: natural light (N)

FIG. 14

YAG / Red

	535 R645				540 R645				550 R645				555 R645				560 R645			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	600	610	525	600	580	590	575	580	575	585	570	575	575	580	570	575				
Full width at half maximum	170	180	155	175	135	145	120	135	120	135	115	130	110	120	110	115				
Tc	4600	4604	5483	5299	4606	4610	5489	5290	4597	4600	5498	5300	4597	4600	5498	5300				
duv	11	-2	11	-2	12	-1	12	-1	11	-2	11	-2	11	-2	11	-2				
Ra	87	93	84	92	75	82	71	81	71	78	66	76	67	74	62	72				
Ga	93	102	91	101	87	96	82	94	83	93	79	90	80	90	75	87				
M	101	110	93	105	91	102	80	95	87	98	74	90	82	93	69	85				
R9	28	68	9	62	-31	16	-65	3	-49	-4	-94	-22	-72	-25	-122	-46				
R15	77	93	73	92	61	78	54	76	57	73	48	69	51	67	41	63				
Ga4	94	102	91	101	87	95	80	93	84	92	75	88	80	88	70	84				

YAG / Red

	535 R620				540 R620				550 R620				555 R620				560 R620			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	575	600	560	580	575	580	565	575	565	575	560	570	565	570		565				
Full width at half maximum	160	170	150	165	135	140	120	135	125	135	110	125	115	125		115				
Tc	4598	4596	5504	5303	4603	4600	5484	5289	4603	4609	5505	5300	4603	4609		5300				
duv	11	-2	11	-2	12	-1	12	-1	11	-2	11	-2	11	-2		-2				
Ra	84	89	81	88	73	79	71	78	70	76	67	75	66	73		71				
Ga	90	98	89	99	87	95	84	93	85	93	81	91	83	91		89				
M	98	105	91	101	92	100	84	95	89	98	80	92	85	95		89				
R9	16	48	1	44	-28	7	-45	3	-41	-2	-60	-9	-56	-15		-24				
R15	73	87	70	86	60	74	57	74	56	72	53	70	52	68		66				
Ga4	92	99	89	98	86	93	83	92	84	91	80	90	82	89		87				

FIG. 15

Green								
Red	G525 R645				G525 R620			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	645	645	525	645	525	615	525	525
Full width at half maximum	180	160	205	180	175	180	165	170
Tc	4608	4595	5510	5303	4599	4618	5509	5258
Ra	86	79	88	80	97	94	96	96
Ga	108	115	107	118	97	107	99	104
M	128	136	122	133	112	118	107	110
R9	28	-3	33	-5	84	94	81	87
R15	81	67	84	67	94	92	94	91
Ga4	115	123	115	123	103	108	103	109
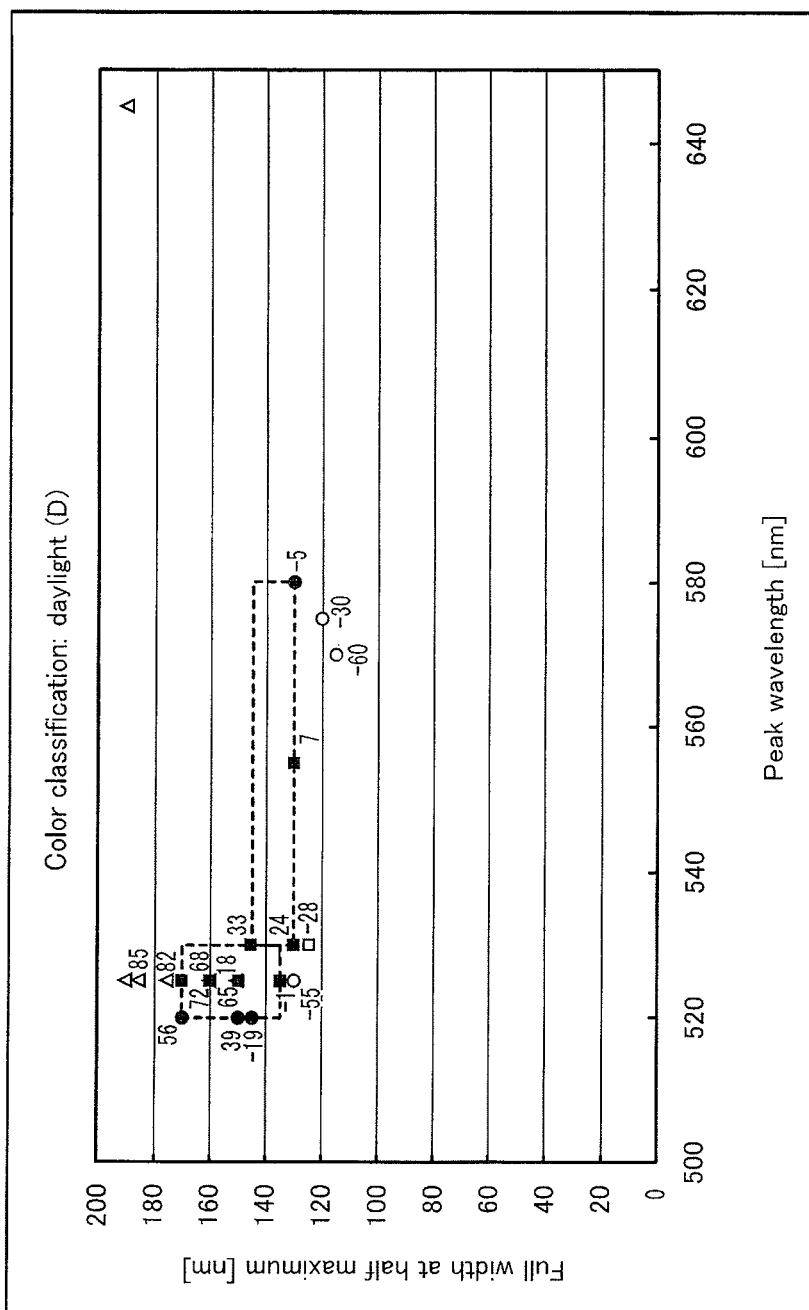
FIG. 16

FIG. 17

YAG / Red (R645)

	535				540				550				555				560			
Color classification point	R645				R645				R645				R645				R645			
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	520	520	525	520	570	580		575		575		570								
Full width at half maximum	145	170	130	150	115	130		120		125		115								
Tc	5696	5695	7096	7099	5668	5670		7024		5673		7041								
duv	15	-2	15	-2	16	-1		-1		-1		-2								
Ra	80	91	75	88	67	79		76		75		71								
Ga	86	100	81	97	78	93		89		89		85								
M	86	102	75	93	74	92		82		86		76								
R9	-19	56	-55	39	-92	-5		-30		-32		-60								
R15	65	91	58	87	47	74		69		67		62								
Ga4	86	100	79	97	75	91		86		86		80								

YAG / Red (R620)

	535				540				550				555				560			
Color classification point	R620				R620				R620				R620				R620			
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	525	525	525	525	530	530		530		550		545		555						
Full width at half maximum	150	170	135	160	125	145		130		140		125		130						
Tc	5700	5696	7096	7103	5673	5672		7029		5703		7102		5703						
duv	15	-2	15	-2	16	-1		-1		-2		-2		-2						
Ra	85	93	81	91	75	84		82		81		79		78						
Ga	90	103	87	101	85	97		95		95		93		93						
M	93	105	85	99	86	99		92		96		89		93						
R9	18	72	-1	68	-28	33		24		21		10		7						
R15	74	95	69	94	61	83		81		80		78		76						
Ga4	91	102	88	102	85	96		95		94		92		92						

FIG. 18

Green	G525				G525			
Red	R645				R620			
Color classification point	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
Peak wavelength	525	645	525	525	525	525	525	525
Full width at half maximum	190	190	175	205	160	185	150	175
Tc	5702	5724	7087	7111	5714	5698	7059	7103
Ra	91	81	92	83	94	94	93	94
Ga	103	117	100	117	95	106	94	107
M	119	130	108	125	104	114	98	109
R9	43	-4	69	-4	72	85	65	82
R15	86	68	94	70	89	89	87	89
Ga4	115	123	109	124	102	111	100	111

FIG. 19

FIG. 20

	No filter	0.27mm air	0.43mm air	0.50mm air	0.27mm silicone	0.43mm silicone	0.50mm silicone
Vs	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ila	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126
Wla	7.52	7.52	7.52	7.52	7.52	7.52	7.52
Flux	465	392	365	353	363	330	317
Flux (relative value)	100	84.3	78.5	75.9	78.1	71.0	68.2
Tc	2832	2819	2842	2856	2969	3033	3045
Duv	0.36	−0.8	−1.9	−2.4	−2.6	−4.3	−4.8
Ra	73.8	80.6	84.7	86.2	85.8	88.9	88.9
R9	−7.9	28.4	51.4	60.6	61.3	89.3	97.7
R15	66.5	80.3	89.2	92.7	92.3	96.3	93.0
Ga	93	99	103	105	104	108	110.0
M	106	116	123	125	124	131	134.0

FIG. 21A

air

(3) air layer (n = 1.00)
(2) soda glass (n = 1.51)
(1) air layer (n = 1.00)
phosphor layer
(n = 1.41)

critical   (1) θ m1 = 45.2[°]
angle   (2) θ m2 = 41.5[°]
         (3) θ m3 = 41.5[°]

FIG. 21B

silicone

(3) air layer (n = 1.00)
(2) soda glass (n = 1.51)
(1) silicone layer (n = 1.41)
phosphor layer
(n = 1.41)
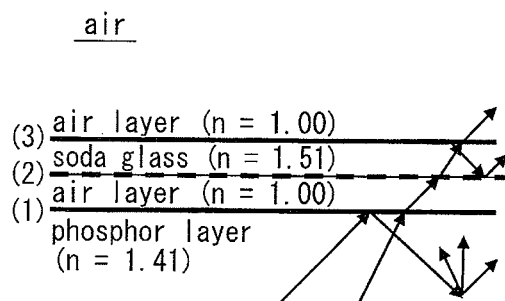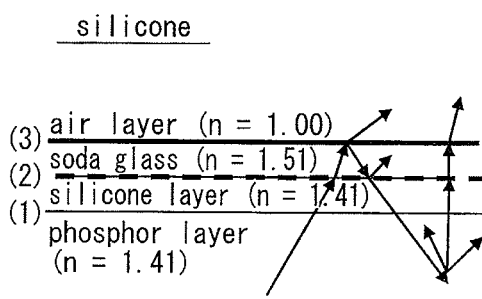
critical   (2) θ m2 = 69.03[°]
angle   (3) θ m3 = 41.5[°]

FIG. 21C
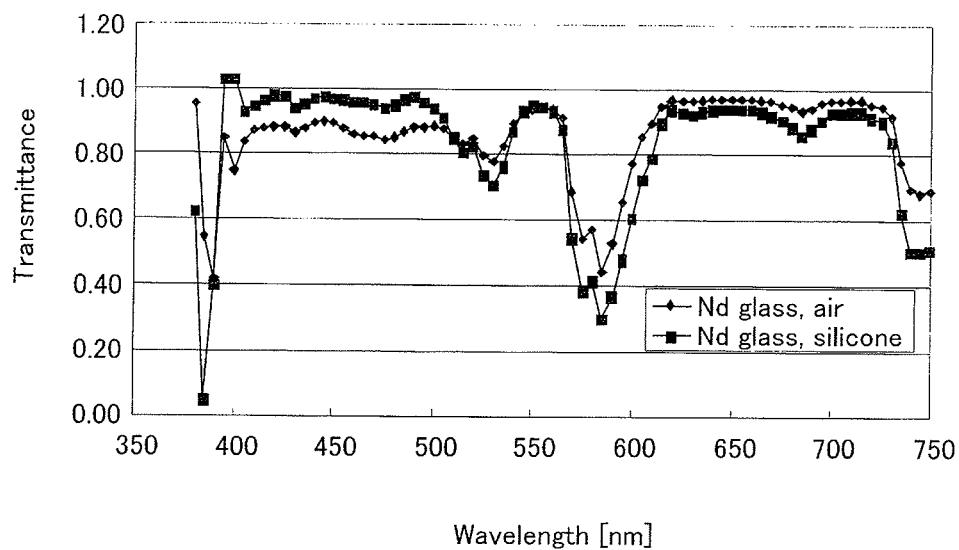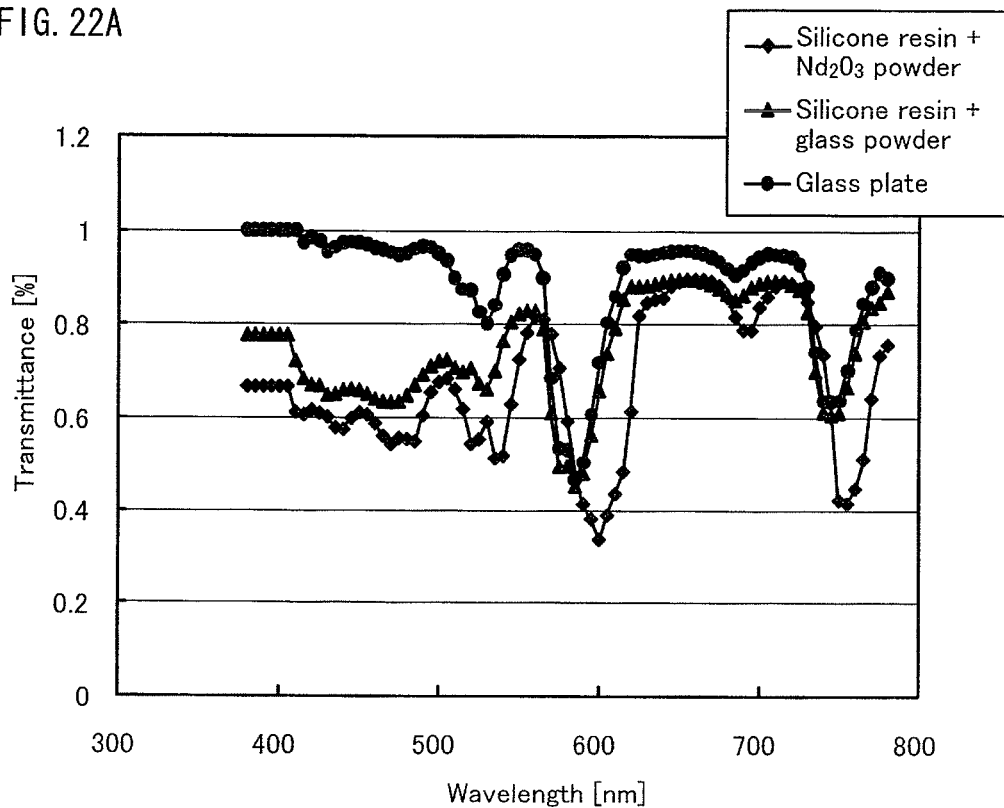
FIG. 22A

FIG. 22B
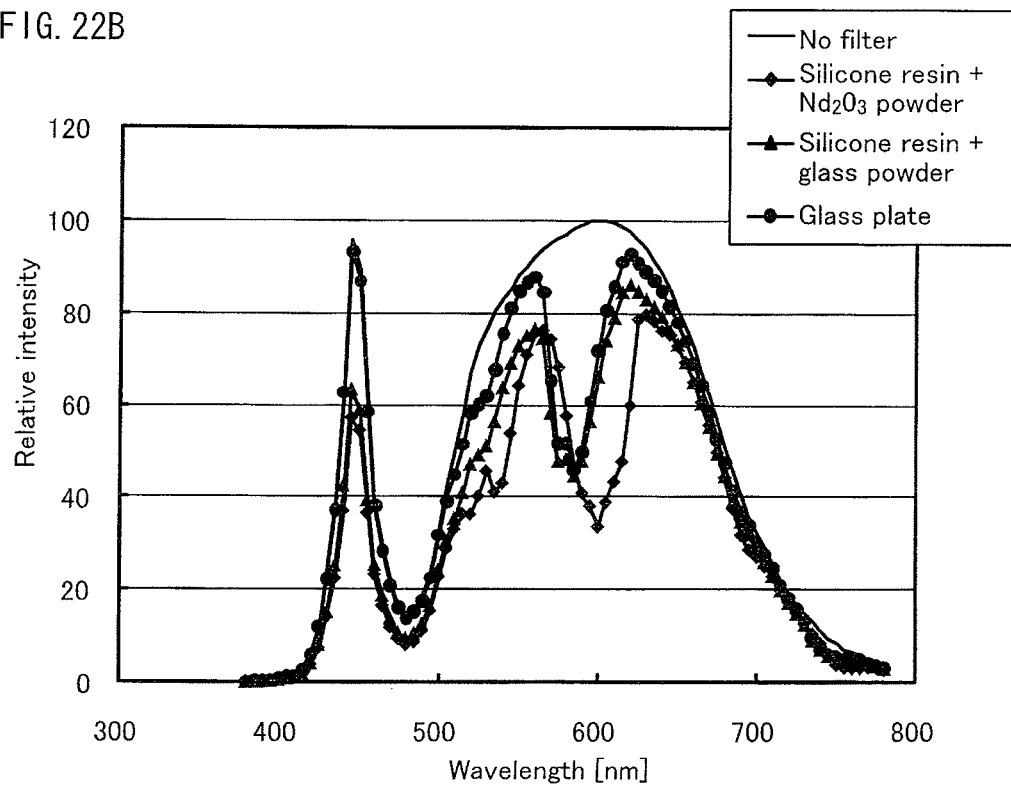
FIG. 23

	No filter	Silicone resin + Nd$_2$O$_3$ powder	Silicone resin + glass powder	Glass plate
Flux	100	62	70	80
Ra	82	81	88	87
Ga	98	102	108	109
M	112	121	127	127
R9	37	94	96	93
Ga4	98	106	106	108

FIG. 24A
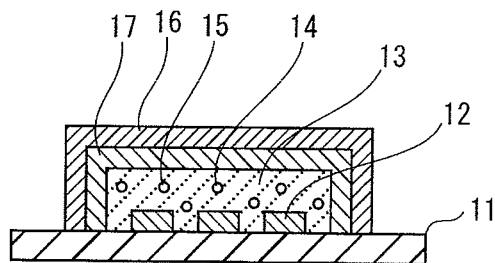
5a

FIG. 24B
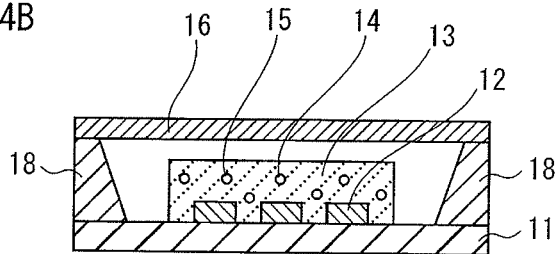
5b

FIG. 24C
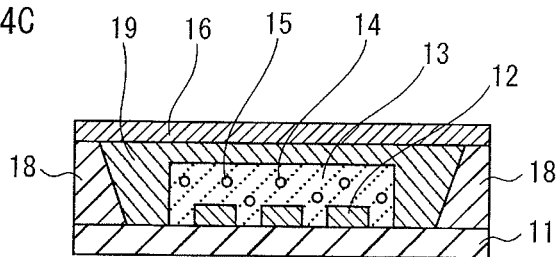
5c

FIG. 24D

5d

FIG. 25A

FIG. 25B

FIG. 26

9

8

5

1c

9

FIG. 27

23
22 } 21

1

20
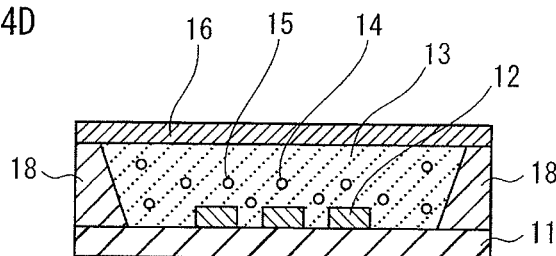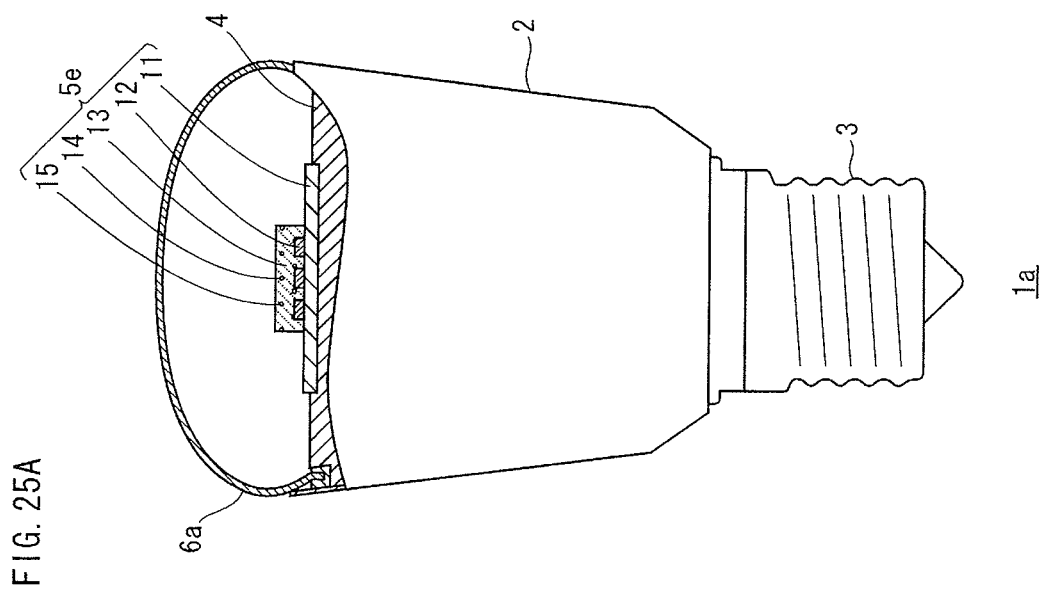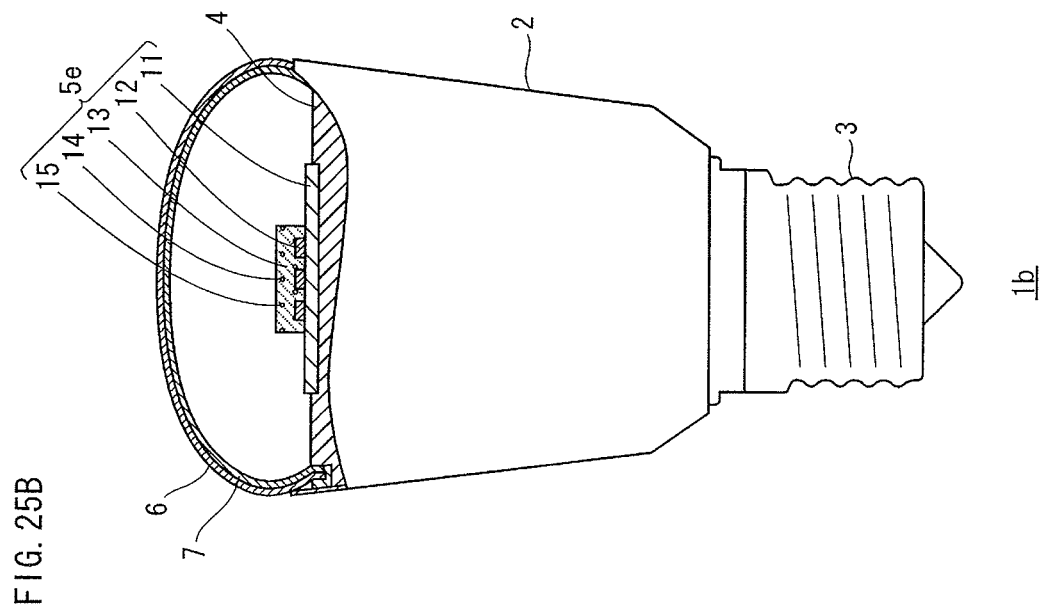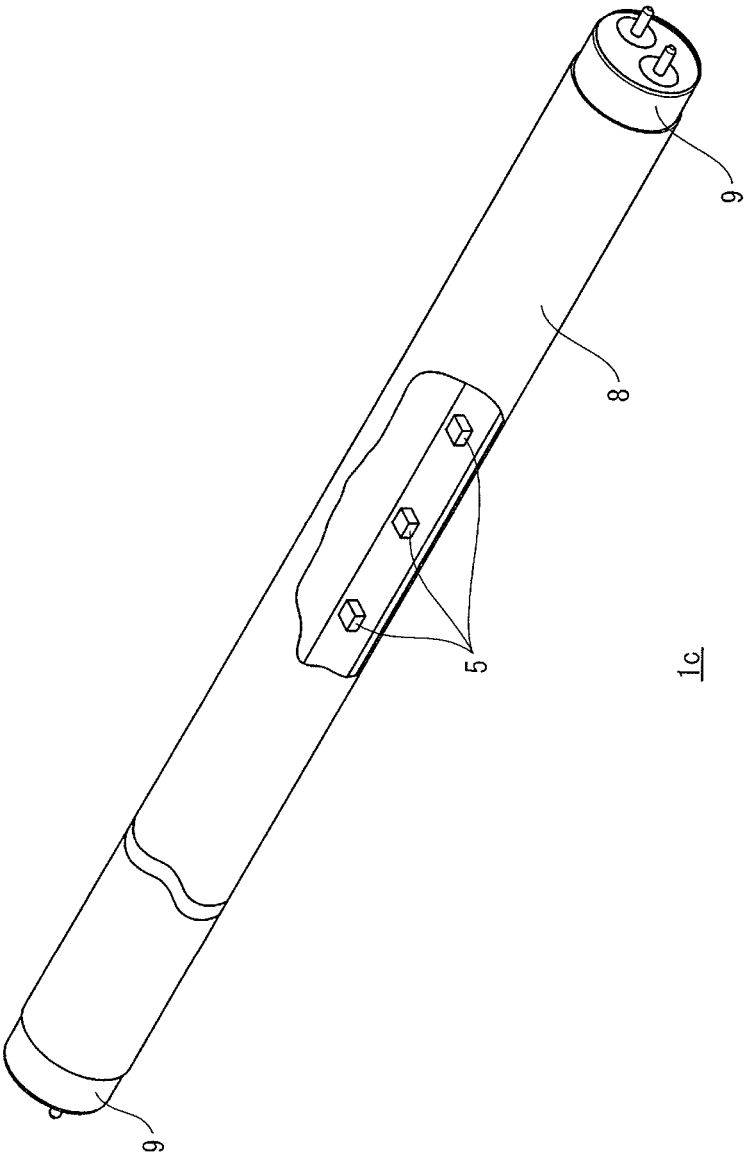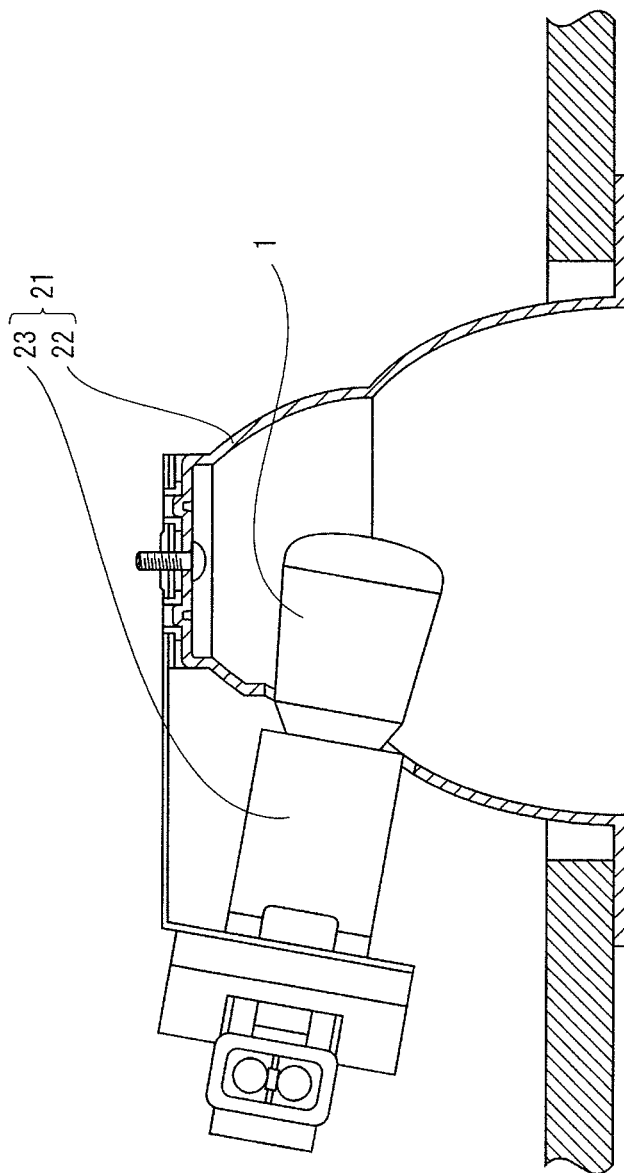
FIG. 28
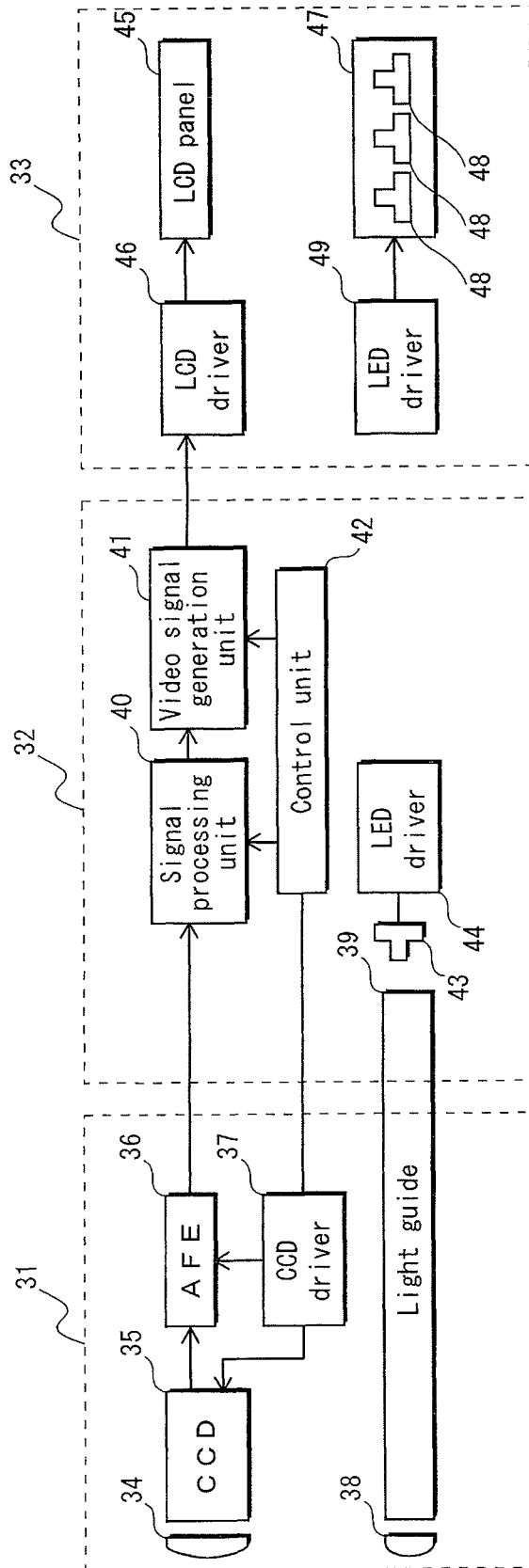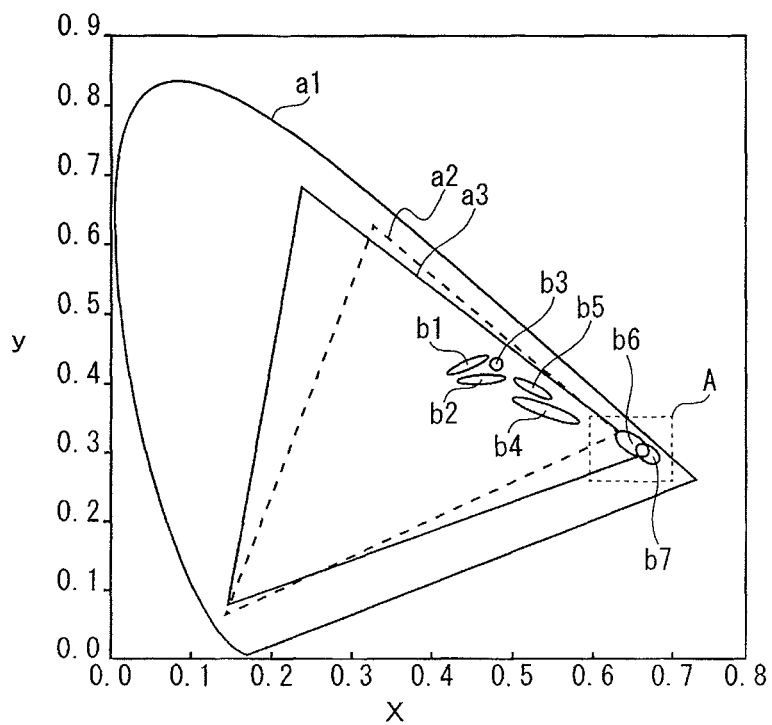
FIG. 29A

FIG. 29B
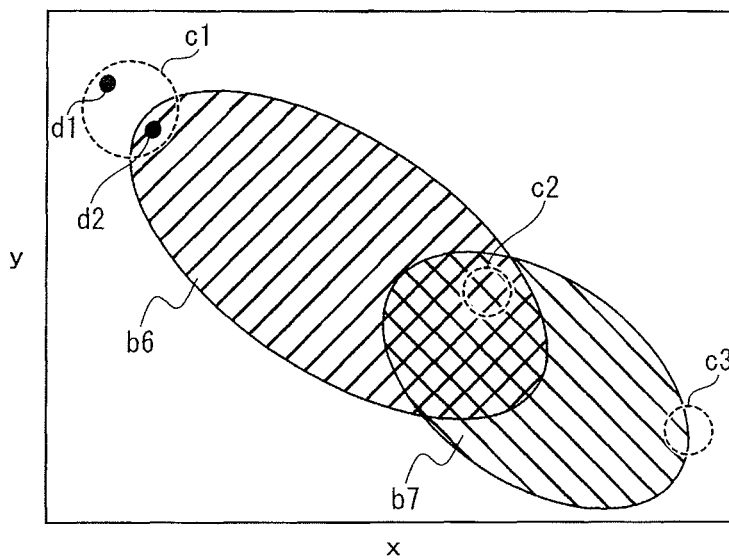
LED LAMP, LED ILLUMINATION DEVICE, AND LED MODULE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an LED lamp, an LED illumination device, and an LED module, and in particular to technology for improving the color rendering thereof.

BACKGROUND ART

In recent years, LED lamps have been widely used as a highly energy-efficient replacement for incandescent light bulbs. One type of white LED light source is a combination of gallium nitride (GaN) blue LEDs and YAG yellow phosphor. Such an LED light source produces blue light from the blue LED, which excites the yellow phosphor particles, in turn producing yellow light. The combination of the blue light and the yellow light yields white light.

Typically, objects viewed under a light source should preferably appear to have natural coloring. In other words, a high color rendering index is preferable. Various conventional forms of technology have been proposed for enhancing the color rendering index of an LED light source. For example, Patent Literature 1 proposes including neodymium oxide particles in a filter element attached to the LED light source as a means of improving the general color rendering index Ra. Neodymium oxide is known as a material for filters that selectively absorbs light in a wavelength band around 580 nm (for example, see Patent Literature 2). Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS) Z8726 defines methods for evaluating the color rendering index under a light source by using color rendering indices that quantitatively assess the fidelity of color reproduction under a lamp in comparison to a reference light source.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

Patent Literature 1: Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2004-193581
Patent Literature 2: Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2000-11954

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Technical Problem

The general color rendering index Ra assesses how natural mid-saturation test colors (R1 through R8; hereinafter referred to as "middle colors") appear. While it is of course important for a typical illumination source to show middle colors naturally, it may also be important for other colors to appear natural. For example, in places such as restaurants or stores that sell merchandise, not only mere brightness but also the appearance of illuminated objects is of great importance. In such contexts, there is a demand therefore for not only middle colors but also strong colors, in particular strong red, to appear natural.

Conventionally, technology for increasing the Ra through use of a light filter or for making illuminated objects appear natural has been disclosed in the literature. However, a way of simultaneously improving the color rendering of both middle colors and of strong red in order to achieve a natural appearance has not been available.

In recent years, the use of LED light sources in industry as an energy-efficient light source has increased dramatically. While typically available LED light sources suffice for merely guaranteeing brightness, the color rendering and the appearance of illuminated objects achieved by such LED light sources is, in some cases, insufficient. If an LED light source that simultaneously improves the color rendering of both middle colors and of strong red can be achieved, it can be expected that this energy-efficient light source will be used even more widely in stores, restaurants, and other contexts where not only brightness but also the appearance of illuminated objects is of great importance.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide an LED lamp that endows not only middle colors but also strong red with a natural appearance.

Solution to Problem

An LED lamp according to the present invention comprises: an LED light source including a blue LED with a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength band of 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the LED light source.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

The LED lamp with the above structure adopts a filter that reduces the spectral radiation intensity of a specific wavelength band and includes a red phosphor in the LED light source, thereby endowing not only middle colors but also strong red with a natural appearance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates the structure of an LED lamp according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 2A and 2B show the results of optical spectra measurements performed on an LED lamp, with FIG. 2A showing the optical spectra for a Comparative Example, and FIG. 2B showing the optical spectra for a Working Example.

FIGS. 3A and 3B list indices for assessing optical characteristics of the LED lamp, with FIG. 3A listing indices for the Comparative Example, and FIG. 3B listing indices for the Working Example.

FIG. 4 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of light bulb color (L).

FIG. 5 shows the simulation results for the color classification of light bulb color (L).

FIG. 6 shows the simulation results for the color classification of light bulb color (L).

FIG. 7 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of warm white (WW).

FIG. 8 shows the simulation results for the color classification of warm white (WW).

FIG. 9 shows the simulation results for the color classification of warm white (WW).

FIG. 10 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of white (W).

FIG. 11 shows the simulation results for the color classification of white (W).

FIG. 12 shows the simulation results for the color classification of white (W).

FIG. **13** is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of natural light (N).

FIG. **14** shows the simulation results for the color classification of natural light (N).

FIG. **15** shows the simulation results for the color classification of natural light (N).

FIG. **16** is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of daylight (D).

FIG. **17** shows the simulation results for the color classification of daylight (D).

FIG. **18** shows the simulation results for the color classification of daylight (D).

FIG. **19** shows the results of optical spectra measurements performed on an LED lamp.

FIG. **20** lists indices for assessing optical characteristics of the LED lamp in FIG. **19**.

FIGS. **21A** to **21C** show differences in optical characteristics due to differences in LED module structure, with FIG. **21A** showing the boundary surface for each layer when an air layer is present, FIG. **21B** showing the boundary surface for each layer when a silicone layer is present, and FIG. **21C** showing filter transmittance in the case of the air layer and of the silicone layer.

FIGS. **22A** and **22B** show the results of transmission spectra measurements for each form of inclusion of neodymium as well as the results of optical spectra measurements performed on an LED lamp.

FIG. **23** lists indices for assessing optical characteristics of the LED lamp for each form of inclusion of neodymium.

FIGS. **24A** through **24D** show modifications to the structure of the LED module.

FIGS. **25A** and **25B** show modifications to the placement of the filter.

FIG. **26** shows a modification to the structure of the LED lamp.

FIG. **27** shows the structure of an LED illumination device.

FIG. **28** shows the structure of an endoscope system.

FIGS. **29A** and **29B** are xy chromaticity diagrams indicating a chromaticity range of colors reproducible by a display unit and chromaticity ranges of various body tissues, with FIG. **29A** showing the entirety of the ranges, and FIG. **29B** showing a magnified view of portion A.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

The following describes an embodiment of the present invention in detail with reference to the drawings.
Structure
FIG. **1** illustrates the structure of an LED lamp according to an embodiment of the present invention, with a portion of the LED lamp cut away.

An LED lamp **1** is a bulb-shaped lamp that replaces an incandescent light bulb. An E screw base **3** is attached to the proximal end of a body **2**. To the distal end **4**, an LED module **5** that emits white light and a globe **6** covering the LED module **5** are attached.

Within the LED module **5**, blue LEDs **12** are mounted on a circuit board **11**. The blue LEDs **12** are sealed by a translucent material **13** formed from silicone resin or the like. A green/yellow phosphor **14** and a red phosphor **15** are dispersed in the translucent material **13**. The LED light source is formed by the combination of the blue LEDs **12**, the green/yellow phosphor **14**, and the red phosphor **15**.

The blue LEDs **12** have a main emission peak in the 440 nm to 460 nm wavelength band. The LEDs may be, for example,

gallium nitride LEDs. Note that the "main emission peak" refers to the emission peak with the largest peak value in the emission spectrum.

The green/yellow phosphor **14** is excited by light emitted by the blue LEDs **12**, thereby emitting green/yellow light. Green phosphor has a main peak in the 500 nm to 540 nm wavelength band, whereas yellow phosphor has a main emission peak in the 545 nm to 595 nm wavelength band. Phosphor particles generally exhibit great variation. As a consequence, phosphor particles classified as yellow in terms of composition may be classified as green in terms of emission peak, and vice-versa. Considering how these two types of phosphor particles cannot always be distinguished, the term "green/yellow phosphor" is employed in the present description.

The red phosphor **15** is excited by either the light emitted by the blue LEDs **12** or by the green/yellow phosphor **14**, or is excited by both, thereby emitting red light. The red phosphor **15** has a main emission peak in the 600 nm to 690 nm wavelength band.

A filter **16** that reduces the spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of the 570 nm to 590 nm wavelength band of light emitted by the LED light source is disposed on the circuit board **11**. This filter may, for example, be made from glass or resin including a neodymium compound (a representative example being neodymium oxide).

Generally, the full width at half maximum of an LED emission peak is narrow, whereas the full width at half maximum of a phosphor emission peak is wide. As a result, longer wavelengths of the emission peak of the green/yellow phosphor overlap with shorter wavelengths of the emission peak of the red phosphor. As a result, the spectral radiation intensity at this overlapping wavelength band is intensified, leading to an unnatural appearance for illuminated objects, which appear excessively yellow. To address this problem, a filter that reduces the spectral radiation intensity in the overlapping wavelength band is provided in the present embodiment, thereby preventing the spectral radiation intensity in the overlapping wavelength band from becoming too strong. This provides illuminated objects with a natural-looking color.

Note that in order to avoid overlap of the emission peaks, it would appear plausible to use a combination of blue LEDs, green LEDs, and red LEDs in the LED light source, instead of using a red phosphor. Using LEDs for all three primary colors, however, is simply not realistic with present technology. For example, since the luminous efficiency of currently available green LEDs is low, it would be necessary to use a large number of green LEDs in the LED light source in order to maintain the green spectral radiation intensity at a certain level. Furthermore, the spectral radiation intensity of currently available red LEDs varies according to temperature. It would thus be necessary to provide a temperature sensor and perform feedback control in order to maintain the red spectral radiation intensity at a certain level. Given these problems, using LEDs for all three primary colors would be disadvantageous in terms of both size and cost. By contrast, the present embodiment is realistic given the state of current technology and offers advantages in terms of both size and cost.

The following are examples of green phosphors. $Y_3Al_5O_{12}:Ce^{3+}$; $Tb_3Al_5O_{12}$: Ce^{3+}; $BaY_2SiAl_4O_{12}$: Ce^{3+}; $Ca_3Sc_2Si_3O_{12}$: Ce^{3+}; $(Ba, Sr)_2SiO_4$: Eu^{2+}; $CaSc_2O_4$: Ce^{3+}; $Ba_3Si_6O_{12}N_2$: Eu^{2+}; β-SiAlON: Eu^{2+}; $SrGa_2S_4$: Eu^{2+}.

The following are examples of yellow phosphors. $(Y,Gd)_3Al_5O_{12}$: Ce^{3+}; $Y_3Al_5O_{12}$: Ce^{3+}, Pr^{3+}; $(Tb, Gd)_3Al_5O_{12}$: Ce^{3+}; $(Sr, Ba)_2SiO_4$: Eu^{2+}; $(Sr, Ca)_2SiO_4$: Eu^{2+}; $CaSi_2O_2N_2$: Eu^{2+}; Ca-α-SiAlON: Eu^{2+}; $Y_2Si_4N_6C$: Ce^{3+}; $CaGa_2S_4$: Eu^{2+}.

The following are examples of red phosphors. Ca-α-SiA-lON: Eu^{2+}; $CaAlSiN_3$: Eu^{2+}; $(Sr, Ca)AlSiN_3$: Eu^{2+}; $Sr_2Si_5N_8$: Eu^{2+}; $Sr_2(Si, Al)_5(N, O)_8$: Eu^{2+}; CaS: Eu^{2+}; La_2O_2S: Eu^{3+}.

Comparison Between Working Example and Comparative Example

The following describes a specific Working Example of the present invention in comparison with a Comparative Example.

FIGS. 2A and 2B show the results of optical spectra measurements performed on an LED lamp, with FIG. 2A showing the optical spectra for the Comparative Example, and FIG. 2B showing the optical spectra for the Working Example.

As the Comparative Example, an LED light source was prepared with a combination of blue LEDs and YAG phosphor, and as the Working Example, an LED light source was prepared with a combination of blue LEDs, YAG phosphor, and red phosphor. As the filter, a thin plate of soda glass including approximately 8% neodymium oxide was prepared. The optical spectrum was measured while changing the thickness of the filter between 0 mm, 0.27 mm, 0.43 mm, 0.5 mm, 0.6 mm, 0.7 mm, and 1 mm. Note that a thickness of 0 mm for the filter means that no filter was provided. The optical spectrum for 0 mm thus corresponds to the optical spectrum of the LED light source.

As shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B, upon transmission of light from the LED light source through the filter, the spectral radiation intensity in the 570 nm to 590 nm wavelength band decreased. Furthermore, increasing the thickness of the filter amplified the decrease in spectral radiation intensity.

A comparison of FIG. 2A with FIG. 2B shows that, as compared to the Comparative Example, the emission peak of light before transmission through the filter shifted towards longer wavelengths and the full width at half maximum grew larger in the Working Example. This is because red phosphor is included in the LED light source of the Working Example yet not in the LED light source of the Comparative Example.

FIGS. 3A and 3B list indices for assessing optical characteristics of the LED lamp, with FIG. 3A listing indices for the Comparative Example, and FIG. 3B listing indices for the Working Example. The indices listed for the LED lamp are the correlated color temperature Tc, the deviation duv, the general color rendering index Ra, the color gamut surface ratio Ga, the conspicuity index M, the special color rendering indices R9 and R15, the color gamut surface ratio Ga4, and the flux ratio. First, the characteristics of each index is described before assessing the optical characteristics of the LED lamp based on the indices.

The color gamut surface ratio Ga is listed in the reference column of JIS Z8726 as an alternative method for evaluating color rendering, without using color rendering indices. Specifically, the value of the color gamut surface ratio Ga is obtained as follows. First, chromaticity coordinates are obtained for eight test colors, numbered 1 through 8, under a reference light source and under a test light source. The coordinates are plotted in the U*V* plane, and the surface area of each resulting octagon is calculated. The surface area of the octagon for the test light source is then divided by the surface area of the octagon for the reference light source, and the resulting surface area ratio is multiplied by 100.

A color gamut surface ratio Ga of under 100 is indicative of decreased saturation, and thus of a tendency toward dull colors. In contrast, a color gamut surface ratio Ga of over 100 is indicative of increased saturation, and thus of a tendency toward vivid colors. Typically, as the color saturation of an object increases, the appearance of the object improves. The

color gamut surface ratio Ga is therefore a suitable index for assessing whether a color is eye-pleasing.

The conspicuity index M is an index indicating the perceived conspicuity of a color. The degree of conspicuity of a color subject that is illuminated by the test light source is expressed by the color gamut surface area of a four-color test subject. The color system used is the brightness (B) and colorfulness (Mr-g and My-b) of a non-linear color-appearance model proposed by Nayatani et al. (for example, in Color Research and Application, 20(3), 1995). The conspicuity index M is calculated as follows, using the color gamut surface area of the four-color test subject.

$$M=[G(S,1000\ 1x)/G(D65,1000\ 1x)]^{1.6} \times 100$$

where $G(S, 1000\ 1x)$ represents the color gamut surface area of the four-color test subject when illuminated by the test light source at 1000 1x, and $G(D65, 1000\ 1x)$ represents the color gamut surface area of the four-color test subject illuminated by the reference light source D65 at 1000 1x. As the conspicuity index M increases, colors of subjects, such as the green of flowers or foliage, appear more conspicuous.

The special color rendering index R9 is calculated based on test color No. 9 (strong red) defined by JIS Z8726. Similarly, the special color rendering index R15 is calculated based on test color No. 15 (Japanese skin color) defined by JIS Z8726.

The color gamut surface ratio Ga4 is calculated using R9 through R12, which are special color rendering indices calculated based on high-saturation test colors 9 through 12. Specifically, the color gamut surface ratio Ga4 is obtained by the same method as for calculating Ga for test colors R1 through R8, using test colors R9 through R12 instead. R1 through R8 are selected from among mid-saturation test colors in order to assess slight differences in the color appearance of natural objects. On the other hand, R9 through R12 are selected from among high-saturation test colors in order to assess the appearance of strongly colored objects. Therefore, Ga4 allows for accurate assessment of whether an object intended to appear vivid does in fact appear so.

The flux ratio is a ratio of the flux after addition of the filter to the flux before addition of the filter. The flux ratio thus indicates the decrease in spectral radiation intensity due to the filter.

As shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, the correlated color temperature of the Comparative Example and the Working Example is near 3500 K, which corresponds to the light color classification of "warm white" as specified by JIS Z9112. The inclusion of "air" in the filter thickness entries indicates that measurements were performed with a gap between the LED light source and the filter.

In the Comparative Example, Ra, Ga, M, R9, R15, and Ga4 increased as the thickness of the glass plate including neodymium oxide, which served as the filter, increased. For example, R9, which assesses the appearance of strong red, was −37 without a filter, 59 at a thickness of 0.7, and 91 at a thickness of 1 mm. On the other hand, as the thickness of the filter increased, the flux ratio decreased. This is because as the thickness of the filter increases, the light transmitted through the filter decreased.

Currently, as no standards for the color rendering of a LED lamp exist, the desirable range of R9 for an LED lamp has not been established. Therefore, in the present description, the desirable range of R9 for an LED lamp is assumed to be 64 or greater in view of JIS Z9112, which specifies the color rendering of a broadband fluorescent lamp. This is based on how the minimum value for high color rendering (color rendering AA) R9 in JIS Z9112 is 64. Strictly speaking, the minimum

value of R9 is specified for each light color classification. In this case, the smallest value among the minimum values was selected.

Furthermore, the desirable range of the flux ratio in the present description is "70% or greater". This is based on how the flux ratio of a high color rendering fluorescent lamp (color rendering AA) to an existing, typical fluorescent lamp is approximately 70%.

Based on these values, the present description applies the condition "R9 of 64 or greater and flux ratio of 70%" as the assessment standard for an LED lamp.

JIS Z9112 also specifies the minimum value of R9 for the most superior type of high color rendering (color rendering AAA). In this case as well, the minimum value is specified for each light color classification, with the largest value being 88. Therefore, if the value of R9 for the LED light source is 88 or greater, the LED light source already achieves color rendering AAA and thus does not require a separate filter. Accordingly, the present description focuses on LED lamps using an LED light source with an R9 value of less than 88.

As shown in FIG. 3A, the Comparative Example does not satisfy the above assessment standard. When the flux ratio is 70% or greater, the value of R9 is greatest when the thickness of the filter is 0.7 mm. Even so, however, the value of R9 does not reach a value of 64 or greater. This demonstrates that, for an LED light source including blue LEDs and YAG phosphor, it is difficult to show a strong red color naturally while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency when the correlated color temperature is approximately 3500 K, i.e. for the light color classification of warm white, even if a filter is attached to the LED light source.

In the Working Example, Ga, M, and Ga4 increased as the thickness of the filter increased, whereas the flux ratio decreased. This is the same tendency as in the Comparative Example. On the other hand, the value of Ra was maintained at 80 or greater regardless of the thickness of the filter. Furthermore, R9 and R15 increased as the filter grew thicker, reaching maximum values at a filter thickness of 0.43 mm and decreasing for greater thicknesses. One possible reason explaining this behavior of R9 and R15 is as follows. As the filter grows thicker, the chromaticity coordinates of the test light source approach the chromaticity coordinates of the reference light source in the U*V* plane, thus reducing color distortion. When the filter grows even thicker, however, the chromaticity coordinates of the test light source surpass and move away from the chromaticity coordinates of the reference light source, thus causing color distortion to increase. Since Ga4 simply increases, this interpretation seems natural. Note that when R9 decreases after reaching a maximum value, strong colors appear even stronger. In such cases, then, a relatively favorable appearance is still often achieved. Excessive strength, however, does appear unnatural and tends to be considered problematic during actual use. Therefore, taking color distorted to be too strong into consideration as well, the desirable range is set as "R9 of 64 or greater".

As shown in FIG. 3B, in the Working Example, many cases satisfied the assessment standard of "R9 of 64 or greater and flux ratio of 70% or greater". Adding a filter to an LED light source that includes blue LEDs, YAG phosphor, and red phosphor therefore achieves a natural appearance for strong red while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency.

On the other hand, with the same filter thickness, flux decreases by approximately 5% in the Working Example, which included blue LEDs, YAG phosphor, and red phosphor, as compared to the Comparative Example, which included blue LEDs and YAG phosphor. In other words, when taking the flux for "no filter" in the Comparative Example as a

standard, the values listed for the flux ratio of the Working Example in FIG. 3B each decrease by approximately 5%. Even taking this decrease into consideration, however, the flux ratio in the Working Example is still 70% or greater for a filter thickness of 0.6 mm. The Working Example thus achieved a flux ratio of 70% or greater with respect to "no filter" in the Comparative Example and also obtained a value of 64 or greater for R9.

With this structure, both an LED lamp that prioritizes efficiency and an LED lamp that prioritizes color rendering can be created to have the same phosphor composition, being distinguished instead by the presence or absence of a filter. Since the price of phosphor varies depending on the amount ordered, the above structure leads to a lower cost for phosphor, thus allowing for the manufacture of inexpensive LED lamps.

Simulations

The inventors performed simulations in order to test which spectrum would yield light chromaticity coordinates within the light color classification specified by JIS Z9112 before transmission through the filter and would satisfy the assessment standard of "R9 value of 64 or greater and flux ratio of 70%" for light after transmission through the filter. Note that the simulations were performed for each color classification specified by JIS Z9112. Furthermore, the simulations were performed with a lower limit of −2 for the duv value of the color classification, since duv lowers upon application of a filter.

Light Bulb Color

FIG. 4 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of light bulb color (L). FIGS. 5 and 6 show the simulation results for the color classification of light bulb color (L). In FIGS. 5 and 6, the "color classification point" represents the limit chromaticity coordinates for each color specified by JIS Z9112. A color classification point that could not be achieved is left blank.

As shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, the green/yellow phosphors prepared for the simulations were YAG phosphors having respective main peaks at 535 nm, 540 nm, 550 nm, 555 nm, and 560 nm, and silicate phosphors (listed as "green") having a main emission peak at 525 nm. The red phosphors (listed as "red") that were prepared had respective main emission peaks at 645 nm and 620 nm. The blue LEDs were assumed to have a main emission peak between 440 nm and 460 nm.

First, the intensities of the blue light, green/yellow light, and red light were adjusted to achieve light bulb color light, and the light spectrum at that point was calculated. The maximum peak wavelength and the full width at half maximum were then calculated as indices characterizing the light spectrum, and the indices Ra, Ga, M, R9, R15, and Ga4 for the light spectrum were also calculated.

FIG. 4 is a plot of the test light sources in FIGS. 5 and 6. The value of R9 before transmission through the filter is indicated by each point. As FIG. 4 shows, the value of R9 generally tended to increase as the peak wavelength and the full width at half maximum increased. Circles in FIG. 4 indicate a test light source in which the green/yellow phosphor was YAG with a peak wavelength between 535 nm and 560 nm, and in which the peak wavelength of the red phosphor was 645 nm. Squares indicate a test light source in which the green/yellow phosphor was YAG with a peak wavelength between 535 nm and 560 nm, and in which the peak wavelength of the red phosphor was 620 nm. Triangles indicate a test light source in which the green/yellow phosphor was silicate with a peak wavelength of 525 nm, and in which the peak wavelength of the red phosphor was between 645 nm and 620 nm. Furthermore, shapes with white centers indicate either data for which

the R9 value did not reach 64 or greater when the flux ratio was maintained at 70% or greater despite addition of a filter, or data for which addition of a filter was not necessary. Data for which addition of a filter was not necessary refers to when the R9 value was high to begin with, reaching 88 or greater (color rendering AAA), or to when the value of R9 was less than 88, yet the reason for the decrease could be assumed to be due to the chromaticity coordinates for the test light sources having exceeded the chromaticity coordinates of the reference light source. Filled-in shapes indicate data for which the R9 value was 88 without a filter, yet which satisfied the assessment standard of "R9 of 64 or greater and flux ratio of 70% or greater" when a filter was added.

Based on these data, for the color classification of light bulb color (L), it is possible to provide an LED lamp that achieves a natural appearance for strong red while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency by adding a filter when the maximum peak wavelength in the light spectrum before transmission through the filter is in a range of 580 nm to 630 nm and the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 175 nm (i.e. within the dashed rectangle in FIG. 4). Note that the "maximum peak wavelength" refers to the maximum among peak wavelengths of light emitted by phosphors.

The same simulation as for the light bulb color was performed for the colors warm white, white, natural light, and daylight as well, and assessment was made with the same assessment standard. The following lists the simulation results.

Warm White

FIG. 7 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of warm white (WW). FIGS. 8 and 9 show the simulation results for the color classification of warm white (WW).

For the color classification of warm white (WW), it is possible to provide an LED lamp that achieves a natural appearance for strong red while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency by providing a filter when the maximum peak wavelength in the light spectrum before transmission through the filter is in a range of 580 nm to 620 nm and the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 175 nm (i.e. within the dashed rectangle in FIG. 7).

White

FIG. 10 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of white (W). FIGS. 11 and 12 show the simulation results for the color classification of white (W).

For the color classification of white (W), it is possible to provide an LED lamp that achieves a natural appearance for strong red while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency by providing a filter when the maximum peak wavelength in the light spectrum before transmission through the filter is in a range of 575 nm to 610 nm and the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 180 nm (i.e. within the dashed rectangle in FIG. 10).

Natural Light

FIG. 13 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of natural light (N). FIGS. 14 and 15 show the simulation results for the color classification of natural light (N).

For the color classification of natural light (N), it is possible to provide an LED lamp that achieves a natural appearance for strong red while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency by providing a filter when the maximum peak wavelength in the light spectrum before transmission through the filter is in a range of 525 nm to 610 nm and the full width at half maximum

for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 125 nm to 180 nm (i.e. within the dashed rectangle in FIG. 13).

Daylight

FIG. 16 is a graph plotting simulation results for the color classification of daylight (D). FIGS. 17 and 18 show the simulation results for the color classification of daylight (D).

For the color classification of daylight (D), it is possible to provide an LED lamp that achieves a natural appearance for strong red while maintaining a certain degree of efficiency by providing a filter when the maximum peak wavelength in the light spectrum before transmission through the filter is in a range of 520 nm to 530 nm and the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 135 nm to 170 nm, or when the peak wavelength is in a range of 530 nm to 580 nm and the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 130 nm to 145 nm (i.e. within the dashed rectangles in FIG. 16).

Differences in Filter Effect

Next, the differences in the effects of using a filter based on differences in LED module structure are described.

FIG. 19 shows the results of optical spectra measurements performed on an LED lamp. FIG. 20 lists indices for assessing optical characteristics of the LED lamp in FIG. 19. As shown in FIG. 20, the correlated color temperature is near 2800 K, which corresponds to the light color classification of "light bulb color".

Here, the presence of a gap between the LED light source and the filter (listed as "air") is compared with a silicone packing between the LED light source and the filter (listed as "silicone"). As shown in FIG. 20, when the thickness of the filter is the same, the flux ratio decreased in the case of the silicone layer as compared to the air layer, whereas the indices Ra, R9, R15, Ga, and M all increased. Inclusion of the silicone layer is thus preferable.

The reason for this tendency can be explained as follows. FIGS. 21A to 21C show differences in optical characteristics due to differences in LED module structure. FIG. 21A shows the boundary surface and critical angle for each layer when the air layer is present. FIG. 21B shows the boundary surface and critical angle for each layer when the silicone layer is present. FIG. 21C shows the transmittance of the filter in the case of the air layer and the case of the silicone layer.

The critical angle is defined by the refractive indices of the media along the boundary surface and refers to the smallest angle of incidence for which all light is reflected when light enters the medium with the smaller refractive index from the medium with the larger refractive index. The transmittance of the filter is calculated based not on the parallel light used at the time of material measurement, but rather based on actual measured values before and after addition of the filter.

When the silicone layer is present, the value of $\theta m2$ increases as compared to the case of the air layer, and the amount of light fully reflected at the boundary surface (2) with the phosphor layer decreases. Therefore, a larger amount of light first enters the soda glass. After propagating within the glass, a portion of the light traces the following path: the light returns to the phosphor layer and is diffused, the angle of incidence changes, and the light again traverses the filter to reach the boundary surface (3). As a result, the number of propagations within the glass increases, thus enhancing the filter effect. As shown in FIG. 21C, the spectral radiation intensity of the filter decreased in the case of the silicone layer as compared to the air layer. Note that the same advantageous effect is achieved as long as the refractive index of the translucent material between the phosphor layer and the filter is similar to or higher than the refractive index of the phosphor layer, and lower than the refractive index of the filter.

Next, differences in the filter effect due to differences in the form of inclusion of neodymium are described.

To illustrate these differences, glass that includes neodymium oxide (hereinafter referred to as a "glass plate"), silicone resin having dispersed therein powder of glass that includes neodymium oxide (hereinafter referred to as "glass powder"), and silicone resin having dispersed therein neodymium oxide powder (hereinafter referred to as "Nd powder") were prepared.

FIGS. 22A and 22B show the results of transmission spectra measurements for each form of inclusion of neodymium as well as the results of optical spectra measurements performed on an LED lamp. FIG. 23 lists indices for assessing optical characteristics of the LED lamp for each form of inclusion of neodymium.

As shown in FIGS. 22A and 22B, the transmittance of the glass plate is higher than the glass powder and the Nd powder in wavelength bands other than the 570 nm to 590 nm wavelength band. In comparison with the glass powder and the Nd powder, it is therefore possible to suppress the reduction in flux ratio of the glass plate (see FIG. 23). On the other hand, it is easier to process glass powder and Nd powder as compared to a glass plate. Therefore, the use of glass powder and Nd power is advantageous when processing the filter to have a complex shape.

Note that when manufacturing glass that includes neodymium, the ratios by weight of silica (SiO_2), an alkali metal compound ($Na_2O+Li_2O+K_2O$), an alkaline earth metal oxide ($CaO+SrO+BaO+MgO$), and neodymium oxide (Nd_2O_3) were respectively 63.9%, 13.7%, 13.7%, and 8.7%. The glass was fused at 1200° C. and subsequently formed into a plate shape. Within the alkali metal oxide, Na_2O, Li_2O, and K_2O had the same weight. Similarly, within the alkaline earth metal oxide, CaO, SrO, BaO, and MgO had the same weight. The resulting plate glass was then annealed for two hours at 1000° C. under a flow of nitrogen gas of 100 cc/minute. The filter characteristics in the wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm were sharp after this treatment.

A different method for manufacturing glass containing neodymium is the sol-gel method described below. 30 g of a neodymium oxide powder having a diameter of 7 μM is mixed into a solution containing 20 cc, 80 cc, and 80 cc respectively of tetraethyl orthosilicate $Si(OC_2H_5)_4$, water, and ethanol, thus yielding a mixed liquid. Several cubic centimeters of 0.01 mol/dm³ hydrochloric acid (or alternatively, nitric acid or acetic acid) is then added to the mixed liquid. This mixed liquid containing neodymium oxide powder is then turned into a gel. The resulting gel is injected into a plate mold and dried for two hours at 100° C. After drying, the product is baked for one hour at 800° C. to manufacture plate glass containing neodymium. A silicon alkoxide other than tetraethyl orthosilicate may also be used.

Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 22, the absorption wavelength band for the glass plate and the glass powder are roughly equal, whereas the absorption wavelength band for the Nd powder is shifted in the direction of longer wavelengths. Furthermore, the transmittance is approximately the same for the glass plate in the directions of both shorter and longer wavelengths of the absorption wavelength band, whereas the transmittance differs between the directions of shorter and longer wavelengths for the glass powder. Selectively exploiting these different characteristics allows for adjustment of the light emission characteristics of an LED lamp.

Modifications

(1) While the embodiment discloses the structure of an LED module, the present invention is not limited to the above embodiment. For example, the following modifications are possible.

FIGS. 24A through 24D show modifications to the structure of the LED module.

In an LED module 5a, a translucent material 17 made of silicone resin or the like is sandwiched between a translucent material 13 and a plate-shaped filter 16. The refractive index of the translucent material 17 is equivalent to or higher than the refractive index of the translucent material 13 and lower than the refractive index of the filter 16. This structure enhances the filter effect described with reference to FIGS. 19, 20, and 21A through 21C.

An LED module 5b is an example in which an annular reflector element 18 having with a reflective inner face is disposed on a circuit board 11. A plate-shaped filter 16 is disposed on top of a reflector element 18. With this structure, light emitted from the LED light source towards the sides is reflected by the reflective face toward the front. Consequently, the intensity of light at the front of the LED lamp is increased.

An LED module 5c is an example of providing a translucent material 19 in a gap between an LED light source and a reflector element 18. This structure increases the flux ratio, while also increasing the intensity of light at the front of the LED lamp.

In an LED module 5d, a gap surrounded by a circuit board 11, a filter 16, and a reflector element 18 is packed with translucent material to form a translucent material 13.

Note that the filter may be formed by dispersing neodymium within the translucent material 13, which is formed from silicone resin or the like. In this case, the filter 16 is unnecessary.

When using the above sol-gel method to manufacture the translucent material 13 with phosphor dispersed therein, a desired effect can also be achieved by including neodymium. In this case, 30 g of a neodymium oxide powder having a diameter of 7 μm is mixed into a solution containing 20 cc, 80 cc, and 80 cc respectively of tetraethyl orthosilicate $Si(OC_2H_5)_4$, water, and ethanol, thus yielding a mixed liquid. A desired amount of phosphor is further mixed therein. Several cubic centimeters of 0.01 mol/dm³ hydrochloric acid (or alternatively, nitric acid or acetic acid) is then added to the mixed liquid. This mixed liquid containing neodymium oxide and phosphor is then turned into a gel. The resulting gel is injected into a plate mold and dried for two hours at 100° C. After drying, the product is baked for three hours at 200° C. to manufacture plate glass containing neodymium oxide and phosphor. In this case as well, the filter 16 is not necessary. Note that a silicon alkoxide other than tetraethyl orthosilicate may also be used.

(2) In the embodiment, the filter is a small piece of a plate, but the present invention is not limited in this way. For example, the following modifications are possible.

FIGS. 25A and 25B show modifications to the placement of the filter. In an LED lamp 1a, the globe 6a itself contains neodymium oxide, thus also functioning as a filter. An LED lamp 1b has a filter layer 7, which includes neodymium oxide, covering the inner surface of the globe 6. Alternatively, the filter layer 7 may cover the outer surface of the globe 6.

(3) In the embodiment, the LED lamp is light-bulb shaped, but the present invention is not limited in this way. For example, the following modifications are possible.

FIG. 26 shows a modification to the structure of the LED lamp. An LED lamp 1c is a substitute for a straight tube

fluorescent lamp. LED modules **5** are provided in a line inside a straight glass tube **8**. At each end of the glass tube **8**, a base **9** is provided to receive power supplied to the LED modules **5**.

(4) In the embodiment, only an LED lamp is disclosed, but the LED lamp may be combined with a fixture and used as an LED illumination device.

FIG. **27** shows the structure of an LED illumination device. An LED illumination device **20** includes an LED lamp **1** and a fixture **21**. The fixture **21** includes a bowl-shaped reflector **22** and a socket **23**. A base **3** of the LED lamp **1** is screwed into the socket **23**.

(5) The embodiment describes an LED lamp used for general illumination in places such as restaurants and stores that sell merchandise. The present invention is not, however, limited in this way. The appearance of illuminated objects may be of great importance for medical equipment as well. As an example of such medical equipment, the following describes an endoscope system.

FIG. **28** shows the structure of an endoscope system. An endoscope system **30** includes a scope unit **31**, a processor unit **32** connected to the scope unit **31**, and a display unit **33** connected to the processor unit **32**.

The scope unit **31** is provided with a lens **34**, a CCD (Charge Couple Device) image sensor **35** (hereinafter referred to as a CCD sensor), an AFE (Analog Front End) **36**, a CCD driver **37**, a lens **38**, and a light guide **39**. The AFE **36** includes a CDS (Correlated Double Sampling) circuit, an AGC (Auto Gain Control) circuit, and an ADC (Analog Digital Converter) circuit.

The processor unit **32** is provided with a signal processing unit **40**, a video signal generation unit **41**, a control unit **42**, an LED module **43**, and an LED driver **44**. The LED module **43** emits light through the light guide **39** and the lens **38** in order to illuminate the area to be photographed by the CCD sensor **35**.

The display unit **33** is provided with an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) panel **45**, and LCD driver **46**, a backlight **47**, and an LED driver **49**. The backlight **47** includes LED modules **48**. The display unit **33** displays the image photographed by the CCD sensor **35**.

The doctor looks at the image displayed on the display unit **33** in order to diagnose the inside of the patient's body. Therefore, it is crucial for the colors in the image displayed on the display unit **33** to have a natural appearance. In particular, body tissue often appears red, making it crucial for not only middle colors but also strong red to have a natural appearance.

FIGS. **29**A and **29**B are xy chromaticity diagrams indicating a chromaticity range of colors reproducible by the display unit and chromaticity ranges of various body tissues. FIG. **29**A shows the entirety of the ranges, whereas FIG. **29**B is a magnified view of portion A.

The range **a1** is the chromaticity range bounded by the spectral locus and the purple boundary.

The range **a2** is an example of a chromaticity range of reproducible colors when conventional LED modules are used in the backlight of the display unit. A conventional LED module is a combination of a blue LED and a yellow phosphor (YAG).

The range **a3** is an example of a chromaticity range of reproducible colors when the LED modules of the present invention are used in the backlight of the display unit. The LED module of the present invention includes a blue LED with a main emission peak in the wavelength range from 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor with a main emission peak in the wavelength range from 500 nm to 595 nm, a red phosphor with a main emission peak in the wavelength range

from 600 nm to 690 nm, and a filter that reduces the spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of the wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm.

The ranges **b1-b7** are the chromaticity ranges of various body tissues: **b1** is for tendons, **b2** for fascia, **b3** for adipose tissue, **b4** for muscle tissue, **b5** for nerves, **b6** for arterial blood, and **b7** for venous blood.

The red chromaticity is indicated by **c1** when using a conventional light source in the backlight of the display unit, by **d1** when using LED modules with a combination of a blue LED and a yellow phosphor as the conventional light source, and by **d2** when using a cold-cathode fluorescent lamp as the conventional light source.

The red chromaticity is indicated by **c2** and by **c3** when using the LED modules of the present invention in the backlight of the display unit, with **c2** representing a main emission peak of 626 nm for the red phosphor, and **c3** representing a main emission peak of 645 nm for the red phosphor.

As is clear, the chromaticity range of colors reproducible by the display unit with conventional LED modules includes the chromaticity ranges of tendons, fascia, adipose tissue, muscle tissue, and nerves, but not for arterial blood and venous blood. With such a display unit, arterial and venous blood appear colorless (grey) within the image, making these types of blood indistinguishable in terms of color. By contrast, the chromaticity range of colors reproducible by the display unit with LED modules of the present invention includes the chromaticity ranges of tendons, fascia, adipose tissue, muscle tissue, nerves, and arterial blood. Furthermore, depending on the emission peak of the red phosphor, either a portion (626 nm) or the entirety (645 nm) of the chromaticity range for venous blood is included. With this display unit, the color of arterial blood differs from that of venous blood in the image, thus making it possible to distinguish between arterial blood and venous blood based on color.

Note that in order to represent the color of body tissue naturally within the image, it is necessary not only to expand the chromaticity range of colors reproducible by the display unit, but also to increase the color rendering of the LED module that illuminates the body tissue. If body tissue is illuminated with an unnatural color, the color of the body tissue in the image will of course appear unnatural, even if the chromaticity range of colors reproducible by the display unit is expanded. Conversely, if the LED module illuminating the body tissue is equivalent to the LED module in a display unit with a wide chromaticity range of reproducible colors, the colors of body tissue in the image will have a natural appearance. Accordingly, adopting the LED module of the present invention as the LED module illuminating the body tissue achieves an endoscope system that can represent body tissue naturally. In this case, specifically setting the main emission peak of the red phosphor to be 626 nm or greater achieves an endoscope system that allows for a distinction between arterial blood and venous blood in images.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention is useful for example in general illumination.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

1, **1a**, **1b**, **1c** LED lamp
2 body
3 base
4 distal end of body
5, **5a**, **5b**, **5c**, **5d** LED module

15 16

6, 6a globe
7 filter layer
8 glass tube
9 base
11 circuit board
12 blue. LED
13 translucent material
14 green/yellow phosphor
15 red phosphor
16 filter
17 translucent material
18 reflector element
19 translucent material
20 LED illumination device
21 fixture
22 reflector
23 socket

The invention claimed is:

1. An LED lamp comprising:
an LED light source including a blue LED with a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the LED light source,
wherein a color of light transmitted through the filter is light bulb color as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
wherein a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 580 nm to 630 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 175 nm.

2. An LED lamp comprising:
an LED light source including a blue LED with a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the LED light source,
wherein a color of light transmitted through the filter is warm white as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
wherein a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 580 nm to 620 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 175 nm.

3. An LED lamp comprising:
an LED light source including a blue LED with a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and

a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the LED light source,
wherein a color of light transmitted through the filter is white as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
wherein a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 575 nm to 610 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 180 nm.

4. An LED lamp comprising:
an LED light source including a blue LED with a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the LED light source,
wherein a color of light transmitted through the filter is natural light as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
wherein a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 525 nm to 610 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 125 nm to 180 nm.

5. An LED lamp comprising:
an LED light source including a blue LED with a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm, a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED, and a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the LED light source,
wherein a color of light transmitted through the filter is daylight as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
wherein when a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 520 nm to 530 nm, a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 135 nm to 170 nm, and when the maximum peak wavelength of light before transmission through the filter is in a wavelength range from 530 nm to 580 nm, the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 130 nm to 145 nm.

6. The LED lamp according to claim 1, wherein the filter includes a neodymium compound.

7. The LED lamp of claim 6, wherein the filter also serves as a globe covering the LED light source.

8. The LED lamp of claim 6, further comprising:
a globe covering the LED light source, wherein the filter covers one of an inner surface and an outer surface of the globe.

9. The LED lamp of claim 6, wherein
the filter is shaped as a plate and is provided with a space between the LED light source and the filter.

10. The LED lamp of claim 6, wherein
the filter is shaped as a plate, and a translucent material is included between the LED light source and the filter, and
a refractive index of the translucent material is lower than a refractive index of the filter and is equal to or higher than a refractive index of a phosphor layer including the green/yellow phosphor and the red phosphor in the LED light source.

11. The LED lamp according to claim 6, wherein
the filter is made from a glass material.

12. The LED lamp according to claim 6, wherein
the filter is made from a resin material.

13. The LED lamp of claim 11, wherein
the filter that includes the neodymium compound has been manufactured by adding neodymium oxide to soda glass that includes silica, an alkali metal oxide, and an alkaline earth oxide.

14. The LED lamp of claim 11, wherein
the filter that includes the neodymium compound has been manufactured by adding neodymium oxide powder to a silicon alkoxide that includes tetraethyl orthosilicate.

15. The LED lamp of claim 6, further including:
translucent material having dispersed therein at least one of the green/yellow phosphor and the red phosphor, wherein
the filter is implemented by dispersing a neodymium compound in the translucent material.

16. The LED lamp of claim 15, wherein
a sol-gel method has been used to manufacture the translucent material, so that the translucent material has mixed therein the green/yellow phosphor, the red phosphor, and the neodymium compound.

17. The LED lamp of claim 1, wherein
a main emission peak of the green/yellow phosphor is in a wavelength band of 500 nm to 595 nm, and
a main emission peak of the red phosphor is in a wavelength band of 600 nm to 690 nm.

18. The LED lamp of claim 17, wherein
a main emission peak of the red phosphor is at least 626 nm.

19. An LED illumination device provided with the LED lamp of claim 1.

20. An LED module comprising:
a blue LED having a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm;
a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED;
a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the blue LED, the green/yellow phosphor, and the red phosphor, wherein
a color of light transmitted through the filter is light bulb color as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 580 nm to 630 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 175 nm.

21. An LED module comprising:
a blue LED having a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm;
a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED;
a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the blue LED, the green/yellow phosphor, and the red phosphor, wherein
a color of light transmitted through the filter is warm white as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 580 nm to 620 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 175 nm.

22. An LED module comprising:
a blue LED having a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm;
a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED;
a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the blue LED, the green/yellow phosphor, and the red phosphor, wherein
a color of light transmitted through the filter is white as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 575 nm to 610 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 120 nm to 180 nm.

23. An LED module comprising:
a blue LED having a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm;
a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED;
a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and
a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the blue LED, the green/yellow phosphor, and the red phosphor, wherein
a color of light transmitted through the filter is natural light as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and
a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 525 nm to 610 nm, and a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 125 nm to 180 nm.

24. An LED module comprising:
a blue LED having a main emission peak in a wavelength band of 440 nm to 460 nm;
a green/yellow phosphor that is excited by light emitted by the blue LED;
a red phosphor that is excited by light emitted by at least one of the blue LED and the green/yellow phosphor; and

a filter that reduces spectral radiation intensity of at least a portion of a wavelength range from 570 nm to 590 nm among light emitted by the blue LED, the green/yellow phosphor, and the red phosphor, wherein

a color of light transmitted through the filter is daylight as specified by Japanese Industrial Standard Z9112, and

when a maximum peak wavelength of mixed light before transmission through the filter, the mixed light being a mix of light emitted by the green/yellow phosphor and light emitted by the red phosphor, is in a wavelength range from 520 nm to 530 nm, a full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 135 nm to 170 nm, and when the maximum peak wavelength of light before transmission through the filter is in a wavelength range from 530 nm to 580 nm, the full width at half maximum for the maximum peak wavelength is in a range of 130 nm to 145 nm.

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